

NOSTALGIA

Attack on Sawston Hall had one man 'frightened out of his wits'

MIKE PETTY AND JAMES MILNER LOOK THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE NEWS ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST

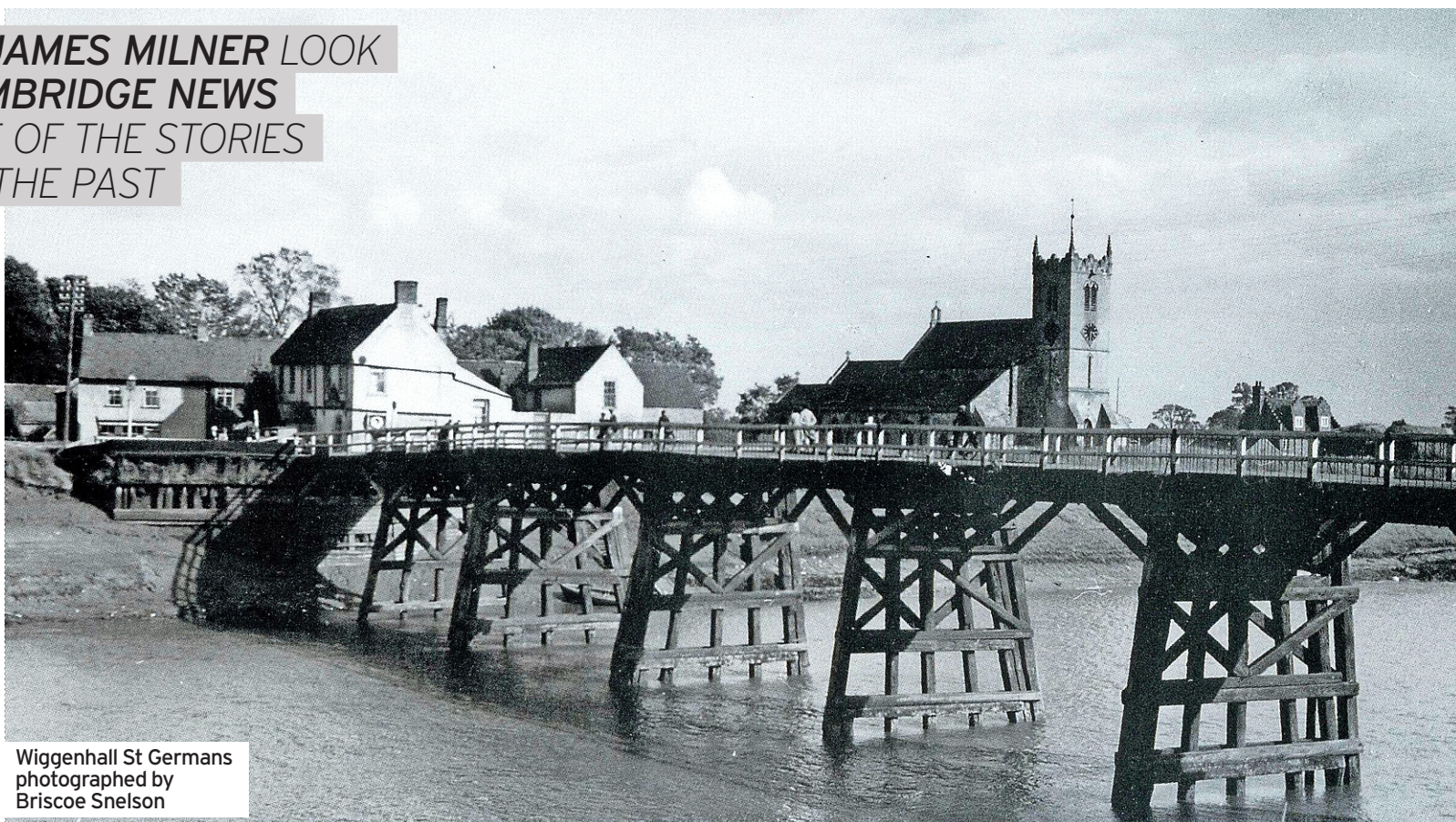
Widow's 'lovely men' were both talented photographers - 1978

CLIFF Squires and Briscoe Snelson were two of Cambridge's most talented amateur photographers, good friends who often photographed the same scene, though from their own distinctive viewpoints.

Squires, founder of the Cambridge camera club, died not long after his friend Snelson was widowed and, in 1953, Mrs Kathleen Squires became Mrs Snelson.

She remembers both husbands as simply, "lovely men".

Now, their widow has deposited a horde of their photographs with the enterprising Cambridgeshire Collection, which is planning to hold lunchtime lantern-slide shows this autumn.



Wiggenhall St Germans photographed by Briscoe Snelson

Cross in danger of collapsing - 1964

THE 14th-century cross at Stretham is in danger of collapsing unless it is repaired.

A Cambridge firm has estimated that the renovations would cost up to £4,000 but Ely rural council cannot obtain a grant from the Ministry of Works and Public Buildings.

Stretham Parish Council has

powers to spend only one-fifth of a penny rate (about £15) on the cross.

Archives enquiries at records office - 1963

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Record Office dates from 1930 when records were first sent to the county council for safe keeping; it was then responsible for the Isle of Ely, Huntingdonshire and Rutland.

In 1948, a part-time honorary archivist was appointed and the staff has gradually increased to an archivist, assistant and repairer.

Although they have a few postal inquiries, most students come in person and do much of the searching themselves.

The most frequent enquiries are legal, usually concerning rights of way or ditches, then come genealogists, especially Mormons, and people interested in the history of their house.

They have considerable arrears in cataloguing documents and have not yet been able to prepare guides or arrange exhibitions, Mr Farrar, the county archivist, told Rotarians.

Farmer's growth from humble start - 1931

SIR Frederick Hiam started life as a farm labourer and is now a potato



Sir Frederick Hiam

king and one of the largest landowners in East Anglia.

He buys more and more land and now owns 20,000 acres, much of which he farms on a prairie system of his own.

He can now land at £3 to £5 an acre which, in 1919, was worth £20 to £40 an acre.

He disputes the claim that he was a farm labourer. His father farmed about 500 acres of land and he started business on his own in Stratford Market, London.

It is inaccurate to say he owns 20,000 acres: it is about 12,000 acres.

Sir Frederick said: "I have not

made any purchases of land for two or three years. Owing to the very great slump in agriculture, prices of land have come down considerably, but really first class fruit land cannot be bought under £40 an acre.

"As for prairie farming, all my land is intensively cultivated with the exception of land put down to grass for horses and cattle.

"Cereals, including wheat, must be grown extensively to provide straw for use in making manure for the root crops.

"Anything in the nature of prairie farming does not exist in this part of the country."



Stretham cross